

DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship, Reclaim Our River program partner on 'Pollinators and Gardening for Clean Water' presentations set for Feb. 19 and March 26 in Seaford

SEAFORD – DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship and the Reclaim Our River (ROR) Program, in partnership with the Delaware Nature Society and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, will host two presentations on pollinators and gardening for clean water on two upcoming Mondays, Feb. 19 and March 26, at the Seaford Library, 600 North Market Street Extended, Seaford, DE 19973. Both events start at 6 p.m.

The presentations will focus on how the monarch butterfly population worldwide over the last 20 years has declined by 90 percent – and what can be done to halt this critical environmental loss, since plants depend on pollinators like the monarch butterfly for reproducing and natural abundance. Pollinators enable flowering plants to help purify water, and also help prevent erosion through a plant's roots that hold soil in place and the foliage that buffers the impact of rain as it falls to the earth.

A limited amount of free milkweed seeds – which can be grown into attractive monarch habitat – will be available to those attending the presentations. ROR partnership members will share information on activities that support clean water, according to Philip Miller, DNREC Nonpoint Source Program,

Division of Watershed Stewardship, while also learning about this year's ROR-Nanticoke Series which again offers numerous opportunities to have fun around the water and learn surefire techniques for keeping our waterways clean.

The Feb. 19 pollinator presentation will be given by Mike McFarlin, who raises hundreds of monarch butterflies each summer in an effort to bolster Delaware's monarch population. His presentation will delve into this majestic butterfly's migration routes and the impact humans have on the monarch's habitat. Mr. McFarlin will also discuss his experiences looking for eggs, raising the monarch from eggs, feeding them, and ultimately releasing the butterflies he raises into Delaware's environment.

The March 26 presentation will be led by Alice Mohrman from the Delaware Nature Society's Abbott's Mill Nature Center, and will focus on gardening for clean water and butterflies. Attendees will learn how to make your yard, deck, patio, or balcony more inviting for pollinators including birds and butterflies. Ms. Mohrman also will offer tips on landscaping your yard, whether big or small, with attractive native plants which support wildlife habitat while also helping to reduce pollution in our waterways. She also will demonstrate a few easy steps toward creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

For more information about both presentations, please contact Alice Mohrman at 302-422-0847 or alice@delawarenaturesociety.org. For more information on the Reclaim Our River Program, which is devoted to bringing monthly events, workshops and recreational activities to the Nanticoke Watershed, please contact Philip Miller at 302-739-9939 or Philip.miller@delaware.gov. The ROR-Nanticoke Series offers participants fun opportunities for connecting with Delaware's waterways and provides important information on water quality that can help in protecting the state's aquatic resources.

Vol. 48, No. 21

Contact: Philip Miller, DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, Nonpoint Source Program, 302-739-9939; philip.miller@delaware.gov